

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05  
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0939

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AWACS, MILI NATO, NO  
SUBJ: AWACS BRIEFING FEB 21 1978

1. BG PIOTROWSKI'S FEB 20-22, 1978 VISIT OFFERED US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO UNDERSCORE THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF NATO AWACS BUT ALSO PROVIDED A NATURAL FOCUS FOR US TO DISCUSS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF NORWEGIAN MOD, MFA, AND CHOD OFFICIALS, THE ABSOLUTE NEED FOR ALL ALLIES TO PERSEVERE IN MAINTAINING THEIR DEFENSE SPENDING LEST VITAL NATO PROJECTS SUCH AS AWACS, SUFFER.

2. THIS MESSAGE HAS BECOME VERY TOPICAL IN NORWAY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AS THE GON HAS BEGUN PREPARING THE COUNTRY FOR THE UNWELCOME NEWS THAT THE NORWEGIAN ECONOMY IS ENTERING A DIFFICULT PERIOD THAT WILL REQUIRE BELT TIGHTENING BY EVERYONE. THE CONCERN IS THAT DEFENSE MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ITS SHARE OF CUTS.

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3. BG PIOTROWSKI'S 0930 FEB 21 PRESENTATION TO CINCAFNORTH GENERAL SIR PETER WHITELEY AND HIS SENIOR STAFF WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED. THE Q&A DISCUSSION FOLLOWING BUILT LARGELY ON THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE RADAR AND THE SURVIVABILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE AFTERNOON SESSION AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS ATTENDED BY FIFTY SENIOR MOD AND MFA REPS INCLUDING MINISTER

OF DEFENSE HANSEN VICE ADMIRAL AKENES (DEPUTY CHOD), LG BJORGE-HANSEN, COMSONOR AND LG TONNE HUITFELDT, COMMON. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS AFTERWARDS THAT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AWACS EDUCATION HAD OCCURRED SINCE THE PREVIOUS (JANUARY 1977) BRIEFING BY GENERAL PIOTROWSKI.

4. ATTENDEES AT BOTH MEETINGS AS WELL AS AT THE DCM'S FEB 21 DINNER IN HONOR OF GENERAL PIOTROWSKI EXPRESSED TOTAL BELIEF IN THE NEED AND CAPABILITIES OF THE AWAC SYSTEM AND CONFESSED THEMSELVES VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT DURING THE FRG TEST. SEVERAL SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS SUGGESTED INFORMALLY THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BRING AN E3A TO OSLO (POSSIBLY SEPTEMBER) AND PROVIDE A DOWN LINK AND OPERATIONAL DEMONSTRATION FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE TO INCLUDE PARLIAMENTARIANS.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO GENERAL PIOTROWSKI AND HIS STAFF FOR BEING SO RESPONSIVE TO OUR SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS AND ALSO FOR, ONCE AGAIN, PROVIDING SUCH AN EXCELLENT BRIEFING. THE EFFORT MADE TO TAILOR THE PRESENTATIONS TO THE NORTHERN FLANK WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND MUCH APPRECIATED. IF LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT A VISIT BY AN E-EA AND A DEMONSTRATION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD HAVE A VERY BENEFICIAL POLITICAL IMPACT IN NORWAY. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT POL/MIL COMMUNITY IS FAMILIAR WITH AWACS, THE POLITICIANS WHO WILL ULTIMATELY APPROVE THE FUNDS ARE NOT. FURTHER, THE PRESENCE  
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OF A VISIBLE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM SUCH AS THE E-EA AND THE DEMONSTRABLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM IT BY SMALLER NATIONS SUCH AS NORWAY, THROUGH NATO MEMBERSHIP, WOULD SERVE TO TIGHTEN SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE AND ITS PROGRAMS. AT A TIME WHEN ECONOMIC SACRIFICES ARE GOING TO BE CALLED FOR, AN INCREASE IN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF NATO COULD BE QUITE USEFUL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, MILITARY BUDGET, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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